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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
EDITORIALS	25-28
The Next Universal Peace Congress—The Washington Arbitration Conference—An Arbitration Group in Congress—Notes on the Washington Conference.	
EDITORIAL NOTES.....	29
Kansas State Peace Society—W. C. T. U. Peace Department.	
BREVITIES	29
GENERAL ARTICLES:	
Preparations for the Thirteenth International Peace Congress	29-30
Anglo-American Arbitration—Facts of History.....	30-32
Abstract of Addresses at the Washington Arbitration Conference.....	32-37
Resolutions of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.....	37
Philadelphia Maritime Exchange.....	37

The Next Universal Peace Congress.

We give on another page the details of a conference held in Washington on the 13th of January to inaugurate the preparations for the thirteenth Universal Peace Congress, which is to meet in this country next autumn. After a good deal of discussion of the matter of the place and time of holding the Congress, etc., it was decided to appoint a committee of twelve, representing the leading peace organizations of the country, with full powers, to determine the place and date of the Congress, to appoint all necessary committees, to raise funds, prepare the program, etc.

This committee, the names of which are given in the account of the Washington conference on page thirty, have arranged for a meeting in New York on the thirteenth of this month, at which the place and date of the Congress will be decided, and all the necessary machinery put in motion.

It is expected that this peace Congress will be one of the largest and most influential ever held, as the sentiment in favor of international peace has now become so widespread and strong in all civilized countries. Large delegations are expected to come from England, France and other European countries, and it is hoped also to get to the Congress some prominent men from South America, from Chile and the

Argentine Republic particularly, where peace sentiment has been recently taking deep root.

Our readers will be kept informed from month to month of the progress of the preparations for the Congress.

The Washington Arbitration Conference.

The national conference called to meet in Washington to promote the negotiation of an arbitration treaty with Great Britain met in the Assembly Hall of the New Willard Hotel, January 12, at 10 o'clock. The preparation of the Conference had been made by the National Arbitration Committee appointed at the Conference held in Washington in April, 1896. The chairman of the Committee was Hon. John W. Foster, ex-Secretary of State.

The moment that the Conference was seen coming together it became evident that Mr. Foster and his committee had done an immense amount of hard and wise work in organizing it. No such body of prominent public men has ever before come together in this country in the interest of any peace effort. The Conference of 1896 was a distinguished and influential gathering, but this went much beyond it, especially in the spirit of the meeting. In the Conference of 1896 there was a good deal of timidity and hesitancy on the part of some. There was nothing of the sort in the recent meeting. As one saw the distinguished personages present and manifesting a deep and unreserved interest in the subject which had brought them there, one could not help feeling that the cause of arbitration and international concord had made very great strides within a few years. Ten years ago only a small number of these persons could have been gotten into any hall where arbitration or any other phase of the peace question was to be discussed.

Among those present—nearly two hundred in all—we noticed Andrew Carnegie, who has given a million and a half for a peace palace for the Hague Court; Judge George Gray of Delaware, a member of the Hague Court, and chairman of the great strike commission of last year; Hon. Oscar S. Straus, ex-Minister to Turkey, and also a member of the Hague Court; Hon. J. M. Dickinson, leading counsel for the United States before the Alaska Boundary Commission; Hon. Jackson H. Ralston, agent of the United States in the Pious Fund arbitration; Cardinal Gibbons, whose great devotion to peace is